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REMARKS

With entry of the instant amendment claims 66 – 75 are pending. Claims 1 – 65 have been cancelled without prejudice, and Applicants reserve the right to file further continuation and/or divisional applications on the subject matter of any cancelled claimed. Applicants assert new matter has not been introduced by the present amendment and that the new claims are fully supported by the disclosure.

The original claims of the present application were subject to a three-way restriction. Applicants elected the invention denominated by Group I, claims 1 – 17 and 54 and 55. The originally elected claims and previously presented claims have been amended a number of times. Therefore, in the interest of working with a clean set of claims, Applicants have cancelled all pending claims and have presented new claims 66 – 75.

Claims 66, 69 and 72 are independent claims and correspond, in part to original claims 12, 13 and 14, respectively and further incorporate the limitations of original claims 5 and 10.

Dependent claims 67, 70 and 73 further define that the *Stachbotrys parvispora* has MUCL accession number 38996. Support is found throughout the disclosure and specifically in original claim 6. Dependent claims 68, 71 and 74 further recite that the oxidizing enzyme is capable of modifying the color associated with a colored compound, wherein said colored compound is a porphyrin, a polyphenol, a carotenoid, an anthocyanin or a Maillard reaction product. Support is found in the original claims and pages 8 and 16 of the disclosure.

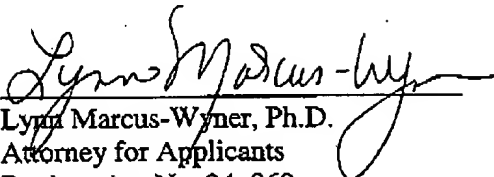
The Examiner has rejected now cancelled claims 8 – 14 and 60 – 65 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with both the written description and enablement requirements. Applicants submit that the present claims do comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicants respectfully request that said rejection be withdrawn and submit that the case is now in form for allowance.

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If there are additional questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at
(650) 846-7544.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 24, 2006
Lynn Marcus-Wyner, Ph.D.
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 34, 869

Genencor International, Inc.
925 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1013
Tel: 650-846-7620
Fax: 650-845-6504